

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 15, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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HENDERSON METH DEALER SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS

– Had 9 mm semi-automatic used in meth trade

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that announced today that **JOHN SPURLIN, JR.**, age 43, of 501 Gabe Street, Henderson, Kentucky in Henderson County, **was sentenced** to 6 years in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for methamphetamine possession with intent to distribute and possessing a 9 mm firearm in furtherance of his drug trafficking. Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced **Spurlin** to 3 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.** In addition, a special penalty assessment of \$200.00 was imposed.

On March 16, 2006, officers executed the search warrant at 501 Gabe Street in Henderson, Kentucky. The officers heard a toilet flushing, went into the bathroom, and found **Spurlin**, who admitted that he had flushed some methamphetamine but that he didn't get it all down. **Spurlin** then advised that there was more methamphetamine in the bedroom and that he had been dealing methamphetamine over the past few months. In the bedroom, officers found numerous individually wrapped baggies. Forensic laboratory examination found that the baggies seized contained a total of 7.452 grams of a substance containing methamphetamine that **Spurlin** intended to deliver to

another.

Police also found a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, a radio scanner, drug paraphernalia (including a digital scale and sandwich bags), and \$15,293.25. **Spurlin** admitted he possessed the firearm "in furtherance of" his drug trafficking business. It was strategically located so that it was quickly and easily available for use. The drugs involved had a street value of over \$700.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Madison Sewell and was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Kentucky State Police and Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

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